Reviews the Forest Administration Report for the year 1927-28.

READ—

The report on the Administration of the Forest Department for the year ended 30th June 1928, received with the Chief Conservator's letter No. Pr. 36-28, dated 5th October 1928.

ORDER NO. G. 11719-33—FT. 143-28-3, DATED 19TH MARCH 1929.

Recorded.

2. The Volume of Reports for future years may be reduced by omitting references to unimportant details and by relegating to appendices tabular statements now included in the body of the report, and by dwelling as far as possible only on important matters relating to the organisation and operations of the Department.

3. *General.*—The Report gives a full account of all the operations of the Department and of the measures adopted for expanding its activities. Government note that the Report is a record of progress in many directions and they have read it with much interest. The historical survey of the Department in the last six decades which forms the introduction to the Report shows the care and attention given to the conservation and development, on scientific lines, of the forest wealth of the State and the success which has attended the efforts of the Department.

4. *Reorganisation of the Department.*—The Department was reorganised during the year under review with a view to ensure closer supervision of operations and greater attention to the economic side of the work of the Department. To relieve the Chief Conservator of some of his routine duties so as to enable him to devote more attention to important questions of the Department and to provide for the systematic investigation and solution of the many problems concerning the Malnad Forests, a Circle Office was created at Shimoga under a Conservator of Forests with jurisdiction over the four Revenue Districts of Shimoga, Kadur, Hassan and Chitaldrug. Other measures affecting the organisation of the Department sanctioned in the year were the constitution of four Sub-Divisions, two in the Shimoga District and two in the Mysore District, the addition of an Assistant Veterinary Inspector to the Elephant Establishment and the appointment of an Accounts Assistant to the Chief Conservator for the efficient conduct of departmental inspection of accounts.

5. *Preservation of Game.*—With a view to prevent the indiscriminate destruction of Game and to protect certain kinds of Game which were getting scarce, the Game Rules were revised during the year and the Vani Vilas Sagara was included in the list of Game Preserves.

6. *Area of Forests.*—With a net addition of 25 sq. miles during the year, the area of State Forests stood at 3,415 sq. miles on the 30th June 1928. The number of Village Forests rose from 144 to 191 in the year under report. Government trust that as a result of the advice rendered to the Panchayets by the Officers of the Forest Department, the management of the Village Forests will show gradual improvement. The general condition of these forests should be described briefly in future Reports. The proposals for the constitution of Minor Forests are pending the framing of Rules under Section 35 of the Forest Regulation and this question is under active consideration.

7. *Inam Forests.*—As a first step in the improvement of Inam Forests, the forests belonging to the Kalasa Temple were notified as Reserved Lands under Section 35 of the Forest Regulation. The Chief Conservator is requested to expedite the scheme for working these forests.

8. *Forest Settlement.*—The number of blocks dealt with in the year is reported to be 17 and there is still much work to be done and it is necessary to arrange for its completion early.

9. *Working Plans.*—The forests of the Bhadravati Division were further surveyed and their working plans revised during the year with a view to find out the capacity of the area to meet the increased demand for fuel of the Bhadravati Iron Works and to ascertain the resources of the Division in *bamboos* available for the

manufacture of paper pulp. The submission of the Report of the Assistant Conservator placed on special work for making this investigation is awaited and should be expedited. The revised Working Plan for the Heggaddevankote group of forests should be completed early.

10. *Demarcation.*—The work of cutting new demarcation lines does not compare favourably with that in the previous year and it should receive greater attention in future.

11. *Prevention of Smuggling of Sandalwood.*—Thefts of sandalwood across the frontiers of the Kadur and Shimoga Districts and the Salem frontier have been largely prevented by the Special Patrol Staff, with the help of the British Police and Forest Officers on the other side of the frontier. Government are glad to note the good work done by the officers on special work and they appreciate the assistance rendered by the Forest and Police Officers of the neighbouring parts of British India.

12. *Grazing.*—The number of cattle admitted to graze in the forests during the year was 4,17,778 against 2,36,546 in the year previous. The increase is attributed to the introduction of the Lumpsum Fee System. Goats having proved an enemy to forest growth even under restrictions, goat browsing has been prohibited except in some special areas.

13. *Lantana and other pests.*—The arrest of the spread of lantana, prickly pear and touch me-not and their eradication are, no doubt, difficult problems. The injury to forest growth by these plants is, however, very great and sustained efforts should be made to find out if there are any means of minimising the harm done by them. Government are glad to learn that the scheme of leasing out for agricultural purpose the lantana-overgrown lands in the Devarayadurga Forests is working satisfactorily and the Chief Conservator is requested to consider if the same arrangement with additional attractions if necessary, cannot be adopted wherever there is demand for land for agricultural purposes, for preventing or at least minimising the harm which these plants are causing to the natural regeneration of valuable forest trees. Whether some industrial use could not be made of these plants is another important problem for investigation. Unless some use is found for them, it may not be possible to attempt a complete solution of this problem. The Chief Conservator is requested to have this question investigated in consultation with the Director of Industries and Commerce and the Director of Agriculture.

14. *Damage to the Sandalwood Trees.*—The number of cases of damage to sandal trees is large and of the 462 cases pending, nearly 71 per cent relate to the Bangalore, Tumkur and Hassan Districts. This work requires greater attention on the part of the Revenue Officers than it has received in the past. The Revenue Commissioner is requested to issue needful instructions for the speedy disposal of pending cases and arrange to send quarterly reports to Government in the first week of January, April, July and October until the arrears are cleared off.

15. *Spike in Sandal.*—This disease is reported to have spread to the Devarayadurga Forest in the Tumkur District, which is a rich sandalwood area. The special staff sanctioned for its investigation has collected considerable data and is conducting its work on scientific lines. The affected areas were visited by the Forest Officer in charge of this work and germination tests from diseased and healthy seeds were carried out. Examination of sandal haustoria, experiments on (1) propagation of sandal by root suckers, (2) transplantation of seedlings for artificial propagation, (3) selection of the best host-plants and also their influence on disease, are receiving attention. Mr. M. J. Narasimhan, the Assistant Entomologist employed on this work is stated to have discovered the existence of intra-cellulor bodies in the cells of diseased leaves and this is considered as marking a distinct step forward in the investigation of the disease.

16. *Expansion of area under Sandal.*—Sandal dibbling on a large scale has been undertaken by the Department to make up as far as possible for the loss caused by spike and the Chief Conservator is requested to have this operation carried out according to a well considered plan for ensuring systematic work for a long period and for encouraging the growth of this very valuable forest product in all favourable areas.

17. *Afforestation.*—It is gratifying to note that both under natural and artificial regeneration, the attempts of the Department have proved successful and that the supply of seedlings of various plants to Local Bodies and Municipalities and the growing of fruit, fuel and other trees of economic value, are receiving attention. The operations of planting and sowing require to be regulated by programmes drawn up with reference to the conditions of the different forests; and the amount of work to be done each year in the several areas should be definitely laid down and effective supervision exercised to see that it is carried out. The afforestation of Gopalaswamy, Chamundi and Bababudan Hills is reported to have made progress in the year. This work is important and it should receive continued attention.

18. *Communications and Buildings.*—A quinquennial programme of Communications and Building works necessary for the proper supervision of forest operations of all kinds and for the prompt and economical transport of forest products to the places of their disposal should be drawn up and carried out in convenient instalments year by year.

19. *Exploitation-Timber.*—The quantities of timber cut in forests, brought to depots and sold during the year were 973,401 c.ft., 612,330 c.ft., and 568,912 c.ft., respectively exclusive of railway sleepers, poles and sawn materials as against 970,196 c.ft., 616,153 c.ft., and 659,726 c.ft., respectively in 1926-27. In addition to this 80,933 railway sleepers were supplied to the State Railways and 1,026 *balagi* poles to the Electrical Department, out of the fellings of the year previous, fresh fellings having been stopped pending the installation of the Creosote plant at Bhadravati. The attempt to transport *balagi* poles, by Sentinel tractors has not proved successful and the question of devising the best means for conveying these long and heavy poles fo which there is great demand by the Electrical Department has been referred for consideration by the Chief Conservator, the Chief Engineer and the Chief Electrical Engineer. The aggregate realisation from timber during the year was Rs. 10,70,669 as against Rs. 9,04,052, the increase being mainly due to the high price of timber prevailing in the market and to the supply of railway sleepers.

20. *Fuel.*—Government are glad to note that the arrangements made for the supply of fuel to the Iron Works were satisfactory. The Department undertook the supply in the year under report of fuel to Sandal Oil Factories, the Railways and the Match Factory at Shimoga.

21. *Creosote Plant.*—The construction of buildings for the Plant was completed during the year and the Plant started work towards the close of the year. The operation of the Plant is for the present limited to the treatment of some varieties of timber proved to be quite fit for use as railway sleepers after creosoting and of *balagi* poles, required by the Electrical Department for transmission lines. The Chief Conservator is requested to see if some of the kinds of timber available in the ghat forests cannot be used, after creosote treatment, for structural purposes.

22. *Stocking of Timber.*—A scheme for the stocking of seasoned timber was started during the year and a special grant was also sanctioned for the purpose. It is reported that not much progress could be made in the work in the year and that arrangements have been made for bringing the scheme into effect gradually.

23. *Sandalwood.*—In order to meet the increased demand of the Sandalwood Oil Factories, 2,473 tons of rough wood were collected and 2,115 tons of good wood prepared as against 2,036 tons and 1,773·5 tons, respectively, in the previous year. Arrangements are reported to have been made for the collection of dead wood of small sizes not hitherto exploited, with the result that a large quantity of valuable material is being gathered, adding to the supplies required by the Factories. A special staff and an additional grant were sanctioned for the collection of dead trees in some forests of the Kankanhalli Taluk where a large quantity of dry sandal in places difficult of access exists and the results of the adoption of these measures have exceeded expectations. The net revenue from sandalwood oil was Rs. 23,00,633 against Rs. 20,56,068 in the year 1926-27. A sum of Rs. 33,542 was realised by retail sales of sandalwood.

24. *Lac Cultivation.*—A quantity of 801 maunds of crude lac was collected against 636 maunds in the year previous and a total revenue of Rs. 19,519 was realised by the sale of lac and lac products such as sealing wax, polish and button lac against Rs. 16,298 in the previous year. The work of propagation and that of manufacture made satisfactory progress in the year.

25. *Saw Mill.*—The total quantity of timber sawn in the Saw Mill at Shimoga during the year was 51,590 c.ft. against 59,450 c.ft. and the revenue realised by the Mill as sawing charges was Rs. 11,667 as against Rs. 15,946 in the year previous. There is no explanation for the short work turned out during the year and the Chief Conservator is requested to submit a separate report on the subject.

26. *Financial.*—Against a total demand of Rs. 48,04,779, the amount collected was Rs. 43,38,361 and that written off Rs. 59,747, leaving a balance of Rs. 4,06,671. Of this amount a sum of Rs. 2,02,000 relates to demands which have fallen due and the Chief Conservator should take prompt measures for its realisation.

27. *Schemes under consideration.*—The following schemes are stated to be under investigation.—

(1) Plywood and Veneer Plant.
(2) Packing cases.
(3) Raising of Cinchona Plantations,
(4) Selection and supply of timber to the Gun Carriage Factory at Jubbalpore.
(5) Installing a portable Saw Mill in the Forests of the Mysore District.
(6) Manufacture of paper pulp and Bobbins.
(7) Extraction of oils and fats from the seeds of certain trees, and
(8) Collection and sale of silk cotton.

The Chief Conservator is requested to arrange for the early completion of enquiries into these schemes and for taking promptly whatever practical action is feasible in the light of results of investigations made.

28. *Forest Labour Colonies.*—The scheme for the settlement of Kunbis in the Sagar ghats has been working well and the new colony of Sholigars in the Chamarajnagar Forests has been well received by the settlers. The Chief Conservator is requested to consider what additional medical facilities might be afforded for the better health of the colonists.

29. *Itineration of Officers.*—The itineration of some of the District Forest Officers fell short of the prescribed minimum and their halts in Forest Lodges are also reported to be less than what they should have been. The explanation of the Officers concerned should be obtained and submitted with the views of the Chief Conservator and it should be impressed on them that serious notice will be taken of their conduct if they do not do the amount of touring and halting necessary for the proper performance of all their duties out of headquarters.

30. *Conclusion.*—The working of the Department during the year was satisfactory and Government are glad to note the good work of the Officers specially mentioned by the Chief Conservator.

R. RANGA RAO,
General Secretary to Government.

FINANCIAL SECRETARIAT.

Appointment of an Amildar Temporarily for the investigation of cases of unauthorised enjoyment of Deva Daya inam lands.

READ—

Para 2 of Government Order No. 1769-72—Muz. 49-28-2, dated 1st March 1929, approving of the Muzrai Commissioner's recommendation for appointing an Officer of the status of an Amildar for a period of three months for conducting an investigation of unauthorised enjoyment or alienation of Devadaya Inams in the Taluks of Tirthahalli and Shimoga and requesting submission of proposals in the matter.

2. Correspondence ending with D. O. No. C. C. (A) 70—28-29, dated 19th March 1929, from the Muzrai Commissioner, recommending that Mr. M. N. Anandalwar, Amildar, Channagiri, under orders of transfer to Channapatna may be deputed for the investigation work for a period of three months and that he may be given an allowance of 20 per cent of the salary in addition to his pay.

ORDER NO. 2022-4—MUZ. 335-28-3, DATED 25TH MARCH 1929.

The Government are pleased to approve of the recommendation of the Muzrai Commissioner.

2. He is requested to submit proposals *re* the staff required for the Special Duty Amildar and necessary reappropriation of funds in the General Muzrai Fund Budget to meet the extra cost.

B. SRINIVASA IYENGAR,
Secy. to Govt., Financial Department.